INVINCIBLE

Scene-by-scene synopsis

Book & mise en scène – Lucille O'Flanagan

Musique, lyrics, orchestration – Elisa Le Cam

PROLOGUE – The Trial

Dublin, 1882. Journalists and members of the public gather for a sensational murder trial. Three journalists introduce Joe Brady, his friends, his family and the events that have brought them before the court.

OVERTURE – So You Think You Know Ireland?

Through music and historical images, we discover an Ireland scarred by the Great Famine, poverty and British rule. The journalists introduce the turbulent political landscape and the story of the Irish Invincibles.

SCENE 1 – The Seduction

In a Dublin pub, Joe Brady and his friends confront the misery of evictions. James Carey draws Joe and Tim Kelly towards violent resistance, but news of Parnell's political success brings hope. The celebrations end in tragedy when a policeman brutally injures young Gracie, igniting a riot.

SCENE 2 – The Wedding Dress

While Mary, Annie, Gracie and Granny Flynn dream of weddings, love and family happiness, Joe and Tim enter a very different world. In a parallel scene, James Carey initiates the young men into the secret society of the Invincibles, where an oath of silence binds them to violence.

SCENE 3 – The Phoenix Park Murders

On 6 May 1882, Joe Brady and Tim Kelly attack Thomas Henry Burke and Lord Frederick Cavendish in Dublin's Phoenix Park. Sister Alice, arriving at the scene, discovers that one of the dying men is her own brother. Joe and Tim flee, leaving behind two bodies and a nation about to be shaken.

SCENE 4 – Talk of the Town

News of the murders spread across Ireland, UK, America - provoking sensational headlines, public outrage and reactions from Queen Victoria, Lady Cavendish and Oscar Wilde. In Dublin, Inspector Mallon begins his investigation, leading to a tense encounter with Joe Brady in which both men conceal revolvers.

SCENE 5 – A Moment of Mercy

Joe confesses to Tim and Michael Fagan that he had the opportunity to kill Inspector Mallon but could not bring himself to do it. Face to face with the supposed enemy, he saw an ordinary Irishman rather than a monster. Meanwhile, Mallon continues his surveillance.

SCENE 6 – The Honour of ’98

At Mullet's pub, the Invincibles celebrate their notoriety with music, dancing and a patriotic song remembering the rebellion of 1798. Their joy is abruptly shattered when Inspector Mallon arrives to arrest Joe Brady, Tim Kelly, Michael Fagan and James Carey.

SCENE 7 – The Trial

The sensational Phoenix Park murder trials begin in April 1883. Tim's mother fiercely defends her son, while Annie risks her own integrity by giving Joe a false alibi. But James Carey betrays his comrades and turns Crown witness, condemning Joe and Tim to death.

SCENE 9 – Saving a Soul

Awaiting execution, Joe is consumed by hatred for James Carey and the betrayal that has destroyed him. Sister Alice visits his cell and reveals that Burke, the man Joe murdered, was her brother. Her extraordinary act of forgiveness finally breaks through Joe's anger and allows him to find peace.

SCENE 9.5 – Remember Me

Alone in his prison cell, Tim Kelly reflects on his approaching death. Through a quiet reprise of The Honour of ’98, he asks not for glory, but simply to be remembered.

SCENE 10 – The Execution

At dawn in Kilmainham Gaol, Joe Brady prepares for his execution. Having made his peace with God, he walks towards the gallows as the voices of the people rise around him. A bell tolls, marking the end of his life.

SCENE 11 – The Ones Left Behind

Outside Kilmainham Gaol, Annie bids farewell to Mary and prepares to leave Ireland for America, while Mary resolves to continue the struggle and Tim faces his own execution. James Carey meets his violent end. In a final ensemble, the voices of the living and the dead celebrate the enduring power solidarity and remembrance – which is truly invincible.